REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed October 5, 2005, the present application has been carefully reviewed and amended. Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-49 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Gopalan (EP 1132243).

The Examiner asserts Gopalan discloses that a "particulated polymeric matrix is deemed to have a first section defined by a first surface treatment to locate the particles relative to a surface of the matrix to define a first average roughness and a second section having particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a different second average surface roughness (*multi- modal particle size distribution, col. 5, line 48 through col. 6, line 5*)." [Paper 09302005, page 3]

The Examiner asserts "the first surface treatment is deemed to be a formed condition of the matrix. The particulated polymeric matrix extends along a continuous length of the weatherseal body and the second surface treatment extends along a continuous length of the particulated polymeric matrix (*figures 4-6*). The first and second

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surface treatment extends along intermittent lengths of the weatherseal (*figure 11*)." [Paper 09302005, page 4]

Applicant respectfully submits Gopalan does not disclose the recited first and second sections of a particulated matrix, wherein the sections have the recited characteristics.

Claims 1-18

Claims 1-18 recite in part, "a particulated polymeric matrix defining a surface of the weatherseal body, the particulated polymeric matrix including a multitude of surface roughness forming particles, the particulated polymeric matrix having a first section defined by a first surface treatment to locate the particles relative to a surface of the matrix to define a first average surface roughness and the particulated polymeric matrix having a second section having the particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a different second average surface roughness, the first and the second section of the particulated polymeric matrix formed with substantially the same distribution of the surface roughness forming particles."

That is, as set forth in Claim 1, the particulated matrix has the same distribution of particles (small, large or a mixture of small and large) in the first and the second section of the matrix, wherein the first section defined by a first surface treatment to locate the particles relative to a surface of the matrix to define a first average surface

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roughness and the particulated polymeric matrix having a second section having the particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a different second average surface roughness.

The examiner asserts "the first surface treatment is deemed to be a formed condition of the matrix [Paper 09302005, page 4]. However, no portion of Gopalan has been cited (and applicant respectfully submits can be cited) to disclose a second section of the particulated matrix having "having the particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a different second average surface roughness."

Gopalan discloses a particulated matrix. The Gopalan particulated matrix is *only* in an "as formed" configuration. There is no surface treatment of the particulated matrix. Even if the "as formed" Gopalan particulated matrix is taken as having a first surface treatment, then there is no portion of the Gopalan having the particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a *different* second average surface roughness. Any section of the Gopalan particulated matrix is the same as any other section of the Gopalan particulated matrix.

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FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5

FIGURE 6
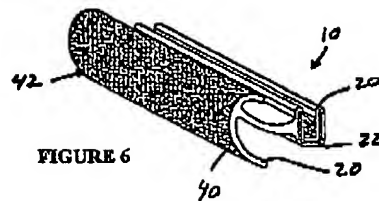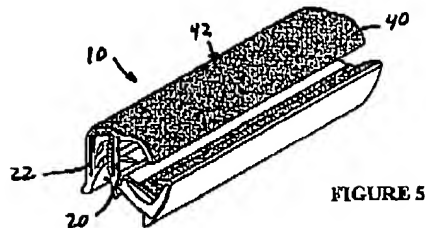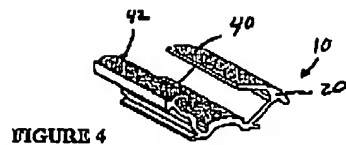
The multimodal particle size distribution of Gopalan means that there are relatively "large" and relatively "small" particles within the matrix. These particles are distributed throughout the matrix. However, the distributed particles are uniform throughout any section of the matrix. As seen in the Figures of Gopalan, there is only one surface texture presented by the matrix. The Gopalan matrix is constant throughout the entire exposed surface of the matrix. Even if the Gopalan matrix has an irregular surface, the entire surface of the Gopalan matrix exhibits that irregularity.

The Gopalan matrix does not have a first section defined by a first surface treatment to locate the particles relative to a surface of the matrix to define a first average surface roughness and the particulated polymeric matrix having a second section having the particles located relative to the surface of the matrix to define a different second average surface roughness.

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Therefore, applicant respectfully submits Claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 19-36

Claims 19-36 recite in part, "the polymeric matrix including a surface treated first section having a first coefficient of friction and a second section having a different second coefficient of friction."

Again, applicant respectfully submits that Gopalan discloses a single particulated matrix, wherein the particulated matrix has a single uniform surface texture and hence coefficient of friction. Applicant recognizes the Gopalan particulated matrix may include a mixture of relatively large and relatively small particles. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Gopalan that such resulting matrix has a section having a first surface treatment and a second section had a different coefficient of friction.

Even if the Examiner's assertion that the "as formed" Gopalan matrix is a first surface treatment, there is no disclosure in Gopalan of a second section of the particulated matrix and a different coefficient of friction.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits these claims are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 37-49

Claims 37-49 recite in part, "a particulated polymeric matrix, a first section of the polymeric matrix having a given coefficient of friction, gloss, reflectivity and average surface roughness and a second section of the polymeric matrix having at least one of a different coefficient of friction, gloss, reflectivity and average surface roughness."

As the Gopalan reference merely discloses a single particulated matrix (though having a multi-modal particle size distribution), there is no disclosure that the matrix has "a first section of the polymeric matrix having a given coefficient of friction, gloss, reflectivity and average surface roughness and a second section of the polymeric matrix having at least one of a different coefficient of friction, gloss, reflectivity and average surface roughness."

Even if the "as formed" condition of the Gopalan multi-modal particle size particulated matrix is taken as a first surface treatment, no portion of the Gopalan reference has been cited to disclose a second section of such formed a particulated polymeric matrix having at least one of a different coefficient of friction, gloss, reflectivity and average surface roughness.

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Newly added claims

Newly added claims 58, 59 and 60 depend from independent Claims 1, 19 and 37 respectively. These newly added claims further define the surface treatment, or first section of the particulated matrix, and thus further distinguish the references of record. Support for these claims is found in at least paragraphs 29 and 52 of the application as filed.

Therefore, applicant respectfully submits all the pending claims, Claims 1-49 and 58-60 are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner feels any further issues remain, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned, so that such matters can be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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